



Research & Monitoring in the Soufriere Marine Management Area

Saint Lucia

Phone: (758) 459-5500

Fax: (758) 459-7799

Email: smma@candw.lc

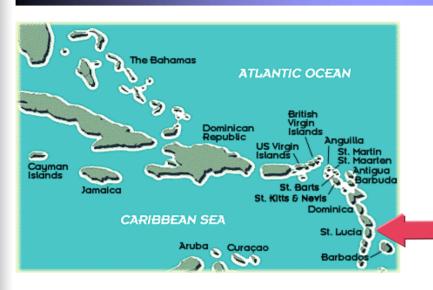


Research & Monitoring Program

- Background
- Research & Monitoring Framework
- The Role of Research & Monitoring in Management
- Routine Monitoring Activities



St. Lucia



about 162,157.00 inhabitants

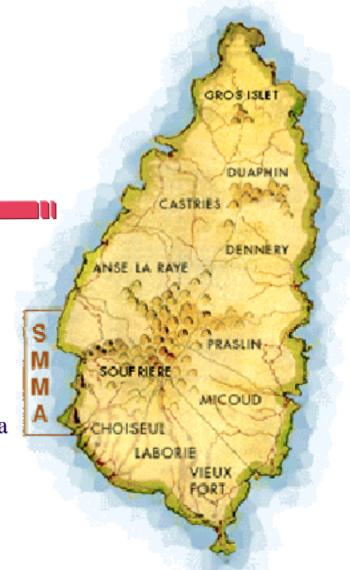
 Between 60° and 61° West Longitude and 13° and 14° North Latitude

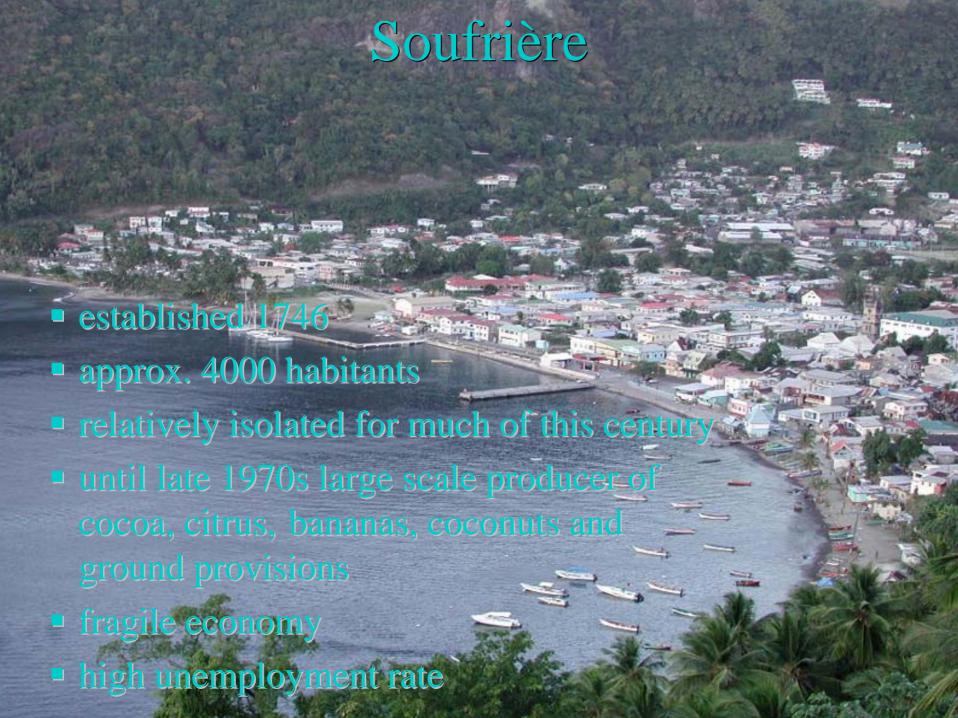
• 238 square miles

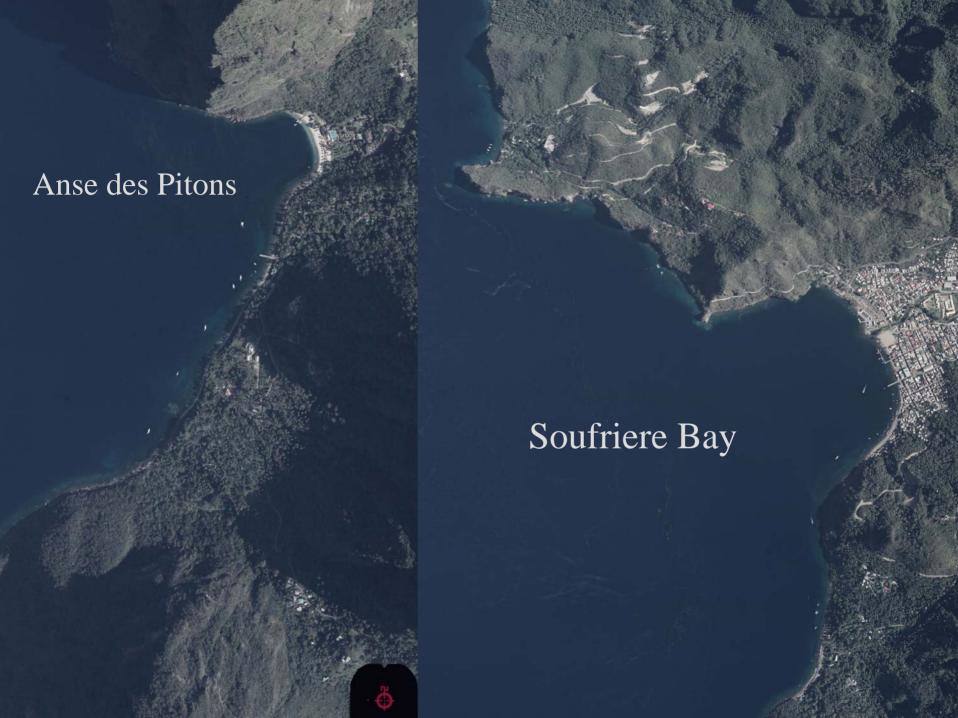
• approx. 1,300 miles southeast of Florida

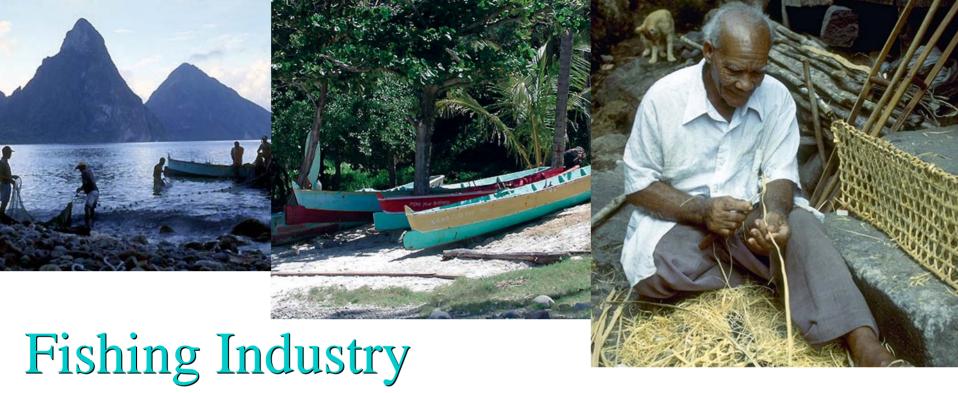
21 miles to Martinique

• 24 miles north of St. Vincent









- particular dependent on coastal resources
- furthest away from the migratory routes of valuable ocean species
- relies heavily on transient schools of coastal pelagics
- December to July: trawling for pelagic species
- rest of the year: reef fishing with bottom set gears



Tourism

- Favorite Destination of:
 - Yachtsmen
 - Scuba divers and
 - Day trippers
- Range of Attractions in Vicinity of Town:
 - Volcanic cones
 - waterfalls
 - Tropical forests
 - Solfaratas
 - Sheltered bays and
 - Coral reefs





Background

Degradation of resource base

result of over-exploitation of the reefs:

- a) over fishing
- b) improper fishing practices
- c) destruction of reef from anchoring
- d) land based sources of marine pollution

Conflicts

increasing competition between recreational users and fishermen over access to resources

most acute conflicts between divers and pot fishermen and between seine fishermen and yachts anchoring in seine fishing areas

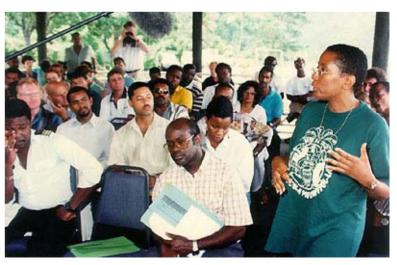


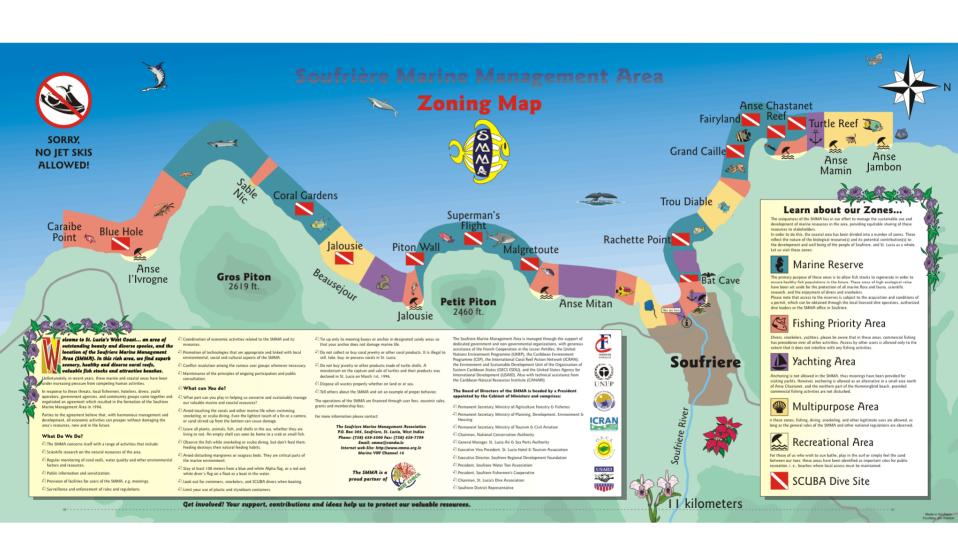


Establishment of a Management Regime

- 4 year participatory negotiation process involving the majority of stakeholder
- Descriptive assessment
 - Exercise delimitations limits of FPAs and MPAs
- Field review/drawing of map
- Drafting of initial agreement
- Establishment of TAC and TWG
 1997 Institutional Review
 - responding to severe internal problems
 - new agreement, among agencies with management responsibility, defining the vision, mission, objectives, regulations, zoning, programmes and institutional arrangements of the SMMA









Institutional Arrangements

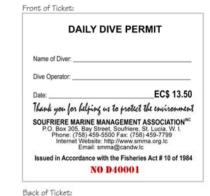
- Establishment of a not-for-profit company comprised of all the agencies, which have a demonstrated management function in the Area
 - five community and non-governmental organizations
 - St. Lucia Dive Association
 - Hotel and Tourism Association
 - Soufriere Fishermen's Cooperative
 - Soufriere Regional Development Foundation
 - Soufriere Water Taxi Association
 - five government agencies
 - Ministries of Planning, Fisheries and Tourism
 - National Conservation Authority
 - Air and Sea Ports Authority, and
 - one or two individuals nominated by the District Representative and the Cabinet of Ministers.
- Designation as a Local Fisheries Management Area
- Establishment of Stakeholder Committee





Day to Day Management

- Staffing
 - 5 Rangers, PRO, Admin. Assistant, Accountant, Manager
- Financing
 - Seed Funding
 - Revenue Generation
 - User Fee System
 - Diving
 - Yachting
 - Snorkeling
 - Marine Services
 - Souvenir Sales
 - Grants
- Infrastructure
 - Demarcation Signs and Buoys
 - Dive and Yacht Moorings
 - Surveillance Vessels



Use of all facilities and user zones within the Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) is at the user's risk. The SMMA bears no responsibility for any loss or injury resulting from the use of the SMMA or its facilities. Purchase of this ticket signifies acceptance of these conditions.

Protecting the Future

© SMMA 2003





Programmes & Activities

- Scientific research on the natural resources of the region
- Regular monitoring of coral reefs, water quality and other environmental factors and resources
- Public information and sensitization
- Provision of facilities for users of the SMMA, e.g. moorings
- Coordination of economic activities related to the SMMA and its resources
- Promotion of technologies that are appropriate and linked with local environmental, social and cultural aspects of the SMMA
- Surveillance and enforcement of rules and regulations
- Conflict resolution among the various user groups whenever necessary
- Maintainance of the principles of ongoing participation and public consultation



Progress

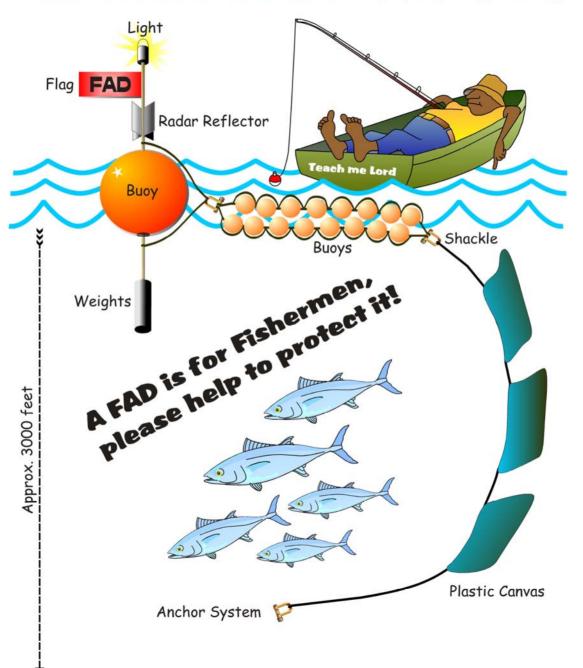
- Active involvement in the development of the tourism and fishing industries
- Notable improvement of resource base
- tripling of commercially important fish stocks in MRs and doubling in fishing areas within 6 years
- Informed management decsions
- Attitude of users changed from initial scepticism and resentment to full support in 2001
- Prohibition of destructive fishing gear



Progress

- Improved visitor safety and security
- Provision of information services
- Diversion and better distribution of fishing and tourism pressures
 - Establishment of FADs
 - Deep sea fishing training
 - Establishment of resource usage schedules
 - Size limitation of diving and snorkelling groups
 - Establishment of a sanctuary
- Effective conflict management mechanisms
- Development of alternative livelihoods
- Involvement in policy developing for aand

FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD)





- Goal: to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of management
- Objectives:
 - to guide the involvement of students and researchers in research activities within the SMMA
 - Prevent negative impact on the SMMA and its ability to perform its role effectively.
 - Clear guidelines to assess the merit of research proposals and ensure that all research activities contribute positively to management



- Objectives (continued):
 - to enhance the availability and use of information and knowledge relevant to management
 - need for a more systematic look at requirements and opportunities:
 - to make sure that critical information needs are met,
 - that priorities and procedures are clearly defined,
 - that they support management decisions,
 - and that the effectiveness and impact of management are properly assessed
 - Lead- or supporting role of the SMMA in Research- & Monitoring activities/programmes



- Objectives (continued):
 - to document and analyse the experience of the SMMA.
 - Because of the novelty of the approaches it uses, the SMMA is seen by many within and outside this region as a learning and testing ground for participatory natural resource management
 - Need to ensure that learning takes place in a systematic and effective fashion.



- Coordinating and advisory role of the BoD:
 - Based on terms and provisions of the Fisheries Act and other legislation
 - To ensure that information on research activities is disseminated to stakeholders, and organizes the redistribution of results
 - Establishment of a Scientific Committee for the purpose of assisting and advising it in these tasks.



 Not a work plan for the SMMA, because it covers a very broad range of issues and topics that cannot all be addressed.

 Compilation of all the needs and opportunities for research and monitoring that exist in the SMMA, within which the priority activities for the SMMA and its collaborators are identified.



- The purpose of the Framework is:
 - to improve decision-making in support of adaptive management
 - to increase efficiency and coordination of research and monitoring activities
 - to increase cost-effectiveness of research and monitoring investments
 - to develop research and monitoring protocols based on 'best practice'



- Issues addressed are not static and are to be reassessed biannually by the Scientific Committee of the SMMA
- Ongoing identification and evaluation of new concerns to support adaptive management
- The specific monitoring and research tasks are prioritised when the SMMA work plans are developed, based on capacity and resources, and the degree to which these activities address the issues of highest priority.
- The work plans also determine the specific outcomes to be expected from the activities.



- Research is the process by which questions are answered using the scientific method, applied to both natural and social issues
- The essential characteristic of research is that it tests hypotheses in such a way that they can be rejected, revised and improve
- Monitoring is an essential component of research. When a hypothesis is erected and an experiment designed to test it, data are collected in the form of some response indicator, through the process of monitoring.
- Monitoring indicators of effectiveness of management can answer questions about management policy and strategy
- Monitoring is therefore a priority for the SMMA.



- Research and monitoring activities must contribute to management objectives
- In the new management agreement, these objectives are stated as:
 - conserve the coastal and marine resource base of Soufriere enhance the equitable economic, social and cultural benefits generated from the sustainable use of the coastal and marine resources of Soufriere at the local and national levels
 - manage the conflicts that may occur among uses and users of the coastal and marine resources in Soufriere



While the emphasis is on research and monitoring activities that contribute to management, it is recognised that the SMMA can provide opportunities for pure research based on the experimental controls that will be offered by effective management.

It is also noted that results from research that is apparently unrelated to management have provided information that is directly relevant, such as the identification of indicator species and the understanding of their links to changes in aspects of reef health.

- Against this background, the role of research and monitoring activities is to:
 - inform and educate stakeholders, and guide their management decisions
 - assess management effectiveness
 - generate new knowledge (in all disciplines, but particularly in the field of natural resource management)





Objective 1: Conservation of the coastal and marine Resource Base

Issues	Priority	Monitoring and research tasks	Work plan and status
Impacts of land-based activities and natural events	1	 monitor basic environmental variables, such as water temperature, turbidity, salinity, sedimentation, rainfall monitor status of sea urchin (<i>Diadema</i>) populations acquire baseline of community composition at selected sites, including reefs and seagrass beds monitor profiles of selected beaches determine species richness of key indicator species (e.g. fish and corals) establish an effective participatory procedure for environmental and social impact assessment of future development projects 	
Impacts and effectiveness of management of resource use in the SMMA	1	 monitor status, and level of exploitation, of selected species monitor level of recreational diving at selected sites monitor the recovery of selected species from the prior status of over-exploitation monitor status of fish stocks in different zones monitor status of habitats in different zones quantify capacity of marine reserves to contribute to fisheries in other zones 	



Objective 2: Enhancement of the equitable economic, social & cultural Benefits

Issues	Priority	Monitoring and research tasks	Work plan and status
Sustainability of current resource uses, based on participatory decisions on the limits of acceptable change	1	 monitor status of harvested resources determine the impact on ecosystems of fishing, diving and snorkeling, yachting monitor changing attitudes to resource use and management 	
Sustainability of alternative resource uses	2	· assess sustainability of offshore fisheries that are promoted as alternatives to the reef fishery	
Opportunities for generating income and employment	1	· identify what are the viable alternatives for fishers and other users · study opportunities and impediments to people gaining access to alternative employment · assess employment transition due to increased or decreased opportunities · assess changes in the contribution of resource use to household economies as new employment opportunities become available	
Equity in access to resources and in the distribution of benefits	1	· assess ability of fishers and other resource users to access alternative employment · identify and quantify who benefits vs. who loses	
Social and economic impacts of the SMMA on various stakeholders, both positive and negative	1	assess changes in employment due to management measures evaluate economic, social and cultural benefits accrued since setup of the SMMA	
Resource valuation	2	value fish species and assess how catch values may change as conditions change in response to management value resource base, reefs, yachting sector, diving and snorkeling, access to recreational space	



Objective 3: Conflict Management

Issues	Priority	Monitoring and research tasks	Work plan and status
Voluntary compliance and enforcement	1	 monitor activities which go against established rules and procedures determine links between compliance and education levels and livelihoods determine effectiveness of various methods of enforcement and test alternatives determine cause of change in number of illegal activities test forms and conditions (levels of education and livelihoods for example) of stakeholder involvement in surveillance and compliance assess changes in social norms and attitudes regarding resources, methods used and social (vs legal) compliance 	
Quality of policy processes, and compatibility between national policy decisions and SMMA management objectives	2	determine the linkage between SMMA objectives and national and regional policy objectives assess policy implications for any perceived incompatibility in the above assess impacts of policy processes on power relations and institutional capacity	
Degree and effectiveness of stakeholder participation in management	1	monitor level of understanding of the role of the stakeholder groups in the SMMA monitor stakeholder participation in decision-making institutions and processes	
Impact of SMMA on power relations	2	· document and analyse conflicts and decision- making structures and patterns	

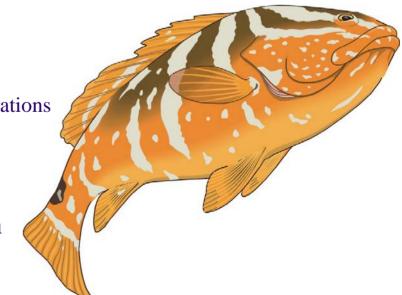


Objective 4: Testing & Development of Methods & Approaches

Issues	Priority	Research and monitoring tasks	Work plan and status
Methods and processes of participatory management, including: * stakeholder identification and analysis * communication * conflict management * organisational development * institutional design	2	implement communication plan and monitor impacts on attitudes and awareness test different approaches to stakeholder analysis and conflict management	
Approaches and methods for implementation and enforcement	3	· develop surveillance and enforcement strategy based on assessment of capabilities and legal framework of key agencies	



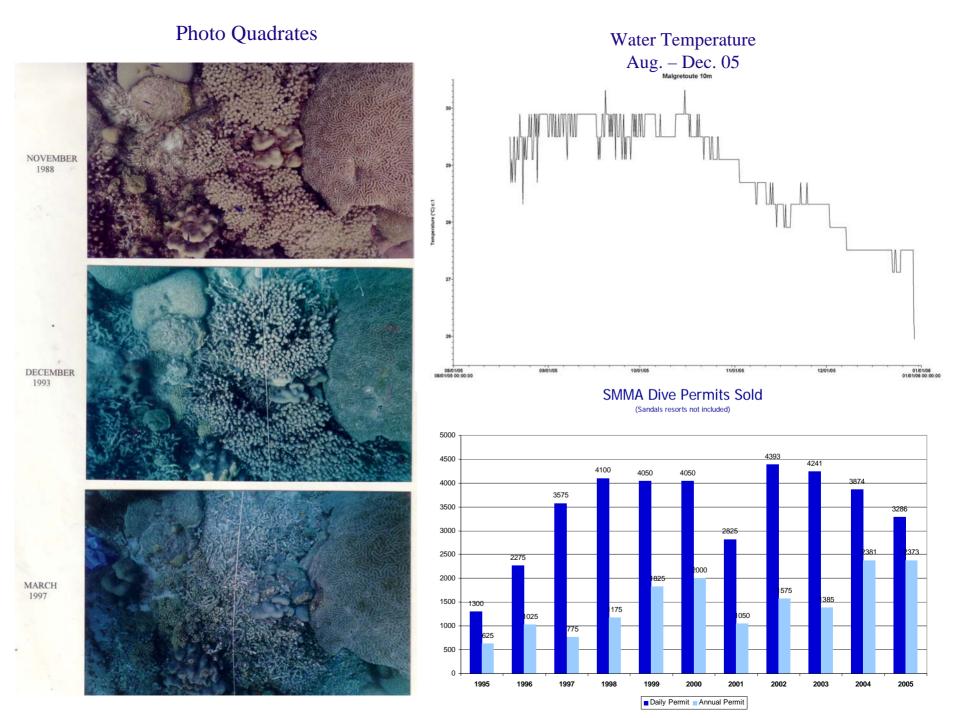
- Guidelines and procedures for the conduct of research
 - relevance to management
 - priority and urgency, as defined by this Framework
 - economic and financial feasibility
 - technical feasibility (human resources, skills and equipment)
 - financial and economic impact (including the use of local suppliers)
 - impact on local capacity (including the use of counterparts) community awareness and involvement
 - environmental impact
 - social impact
 - intellectual property considerations
 - ownership of data
- Terms & Conditions
- Management of Information

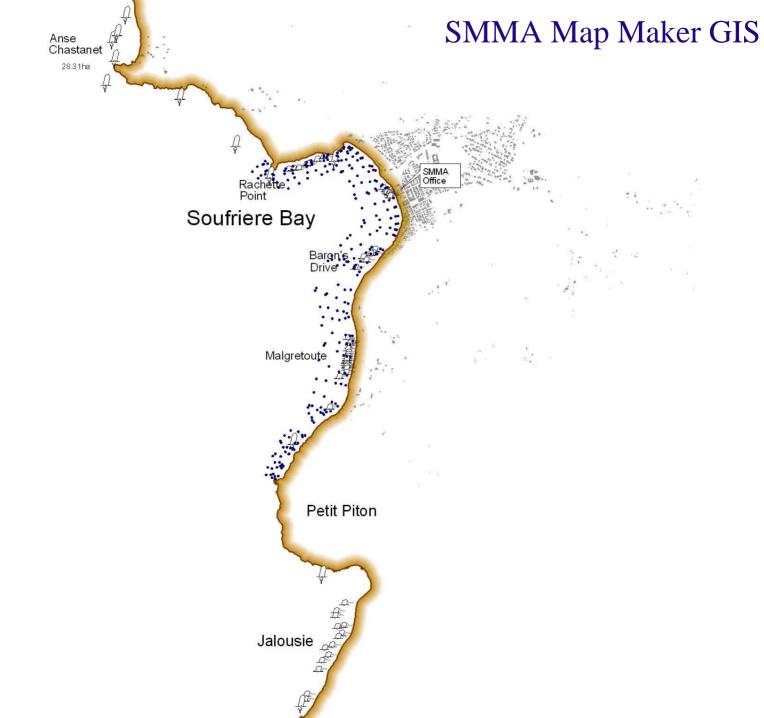




Routine Monitoring Activities

- Turbidity (Secchi Disk) twice weekly
- Salinity (Refractometer) twice weekly
- Water temperature (digital Hobo Water Temp Pro) every four hours 0m, 5m, 10m
- Sedimentation levels biweekly
- E-Coli levels 1 weekly
- Reef Check semi annual
- Beach dynamics semi annual
- Weather parameter (rainfall, wind direction/speed, UV intensity, solar radiation etc.)
- Usage levels (diving & snorkeling)
- Fish landings (DoF)





Date:			
Date:	 	 	_

SMMA Daily Rangers' Log Sheet



Dive Operator	Resort Course	Daily Permit	Annual Permit	Snorkel Operator	# Snorkellers		Turbidity	Mo Wed Fri.	Salinity	Mo Wed Fri.
Action Adventure Divers		0		Action Adventure Divers		M	Anse Chastanet	meters	Anse Chastanet	24
Buddies Scuba				Buddies Scuba		0	Pinnacles	meters	Trou Diable	20
Dive Fair Helen		~		Eastern Caribbean Divers		N	Soufriere River	melan	Pinnacles	20
Eastern Caribbean Divers				Flying Ray		N	Malgretoute	melant	Soufriere River	
Frogs		13		Frogs	3	Ш	Piton Wall	melans	Malgretoute	20
Jalousie Hilton				Le Sport Hotel		Т	Coral Gardens	melans	Jalousie	
Le Sport Hotel				Rendezvous Hotel		0	Reef Check	(every 6 months)	Sediment Trap	S (biweekly)
Rendezvous Hotel		3		Sandals		R	Turtle Reef	3m □ - 10m □	Anse Chastanet	c.□ d.□ w.□
Sandals				Scuba St. Lucia		T	Anse Chastanet	3m □ - 10m □	Rachette Point	c.□ d.□ w.□
Scuba St. Lucia				Balaou Limited		H	Malgretoute	3m □ - 10m □	Petit Piton Edge	c.□ d.□ w.□
Independent				Mystic Man Tours		N	Coral Gardens	3m □ - 10m □	Gros Piton Cliff	c.□ d.□ w.□
Other				Other		G	Temperature	data downloaded to si	huttle 🗆 - batteries	changed 🗆
Total (attach tickets)				Total (attach tickets collected)			Gauges	data transferred □ - lo	gger replaced 🗆	
Surveillance	Time Start	Time End	Ranger Initials	Patrol/Incident Reports (se back of sheet if	песе	ssary)			
Morning Patrol				No Infringements encountere	d□					
Dive Check				Area covered:						
Evening Patrol		- 0								
Night Patrol										
Maintenance	Inspection	Buoys damaged	Ranger Initials							
Moorings	visual 🗆	0 275	×							
Demarcation Buoys	visual 🗆		×							
Boat Check AM:	Hull 🗆	Safety □	Engine □	Coron su arrango e ce						
Damages must be reported	Prop □	Lights □	Tank □	Action taken						
immediately!	Reeling 🗆	Fenders □	Х	Warning issued (attach copy)						
Boat Check PM:	Hull 🗆	Safety □	Engine □	Gear ceased (list) □	1111					
Damages must be reported	Prop □	Lights □	***************************************	Fine imposed (state amount)						
Immediately!	Reeling	Fenders □	Х	Made Arrest □						

Signatures Rangers Shift 1	Signatures Rangers Shift 2	Signatures Rangers Shift 3	Manager reviewed
	있다. (C=C+C) (C+C)		[AND COLORS OF COLORS AND



What works & what doesn't?

Progress

- Shifting of priorities from management of users and uses to management of resources
- Community managed protocol
- Expanding activities
- Improved training and capacity
- Map Maker GIS (optimal display of analyses and results for decision making processes)

Constraints

- Responsibilities of SMMA too broad
- Lack of continuity
- Board priorities (financial, pressing issues)
- Perceived low importance of R&M
- Fluctuation changes of Board composition
- Limited capacity (Board members & staff)
- Political interference / indecisiveness
- Inconsistent support from volunteers (e.g. dive operators, visitors)



Thank You!